



ST FRANCIS IN THE FIELDS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sunday, September 3, 2023

5:30 p.m.

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

A Service of Choral Evensong

The Rev. Barbara White, *Associate Rector*

The St. Francis Schola

Dr. Kirk M. Rich, *Director of Music*

Robert Lee, *Associate Organist*

WELCOME TO ST. FRANCIS IN THE FIELDS HARRODS CREEK

We invite you to join us as active participants in the same worship that Anglicans have been celebrating for centuries. Our service is drawn from the riches of the Anglican tradition. Children of all ages are welcome in our worship services today.

Choral Evensong

What is Evensong? Evensong is a tiny fragment of something else: it is part of the worship that is offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world. When you come to Evensong, it is as if you were dropping in on a conversation already in progress — a conversation between God and his people that began long before you were born and that will continue long after you die. Do not be disturbed if there are some things you do not understand right away. For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship that is being offered today and that will be offered even unto the end of time. You are one with those who worship here on earth and in heaven. *-The Rev. Canon J. W. Poole*

Why celebrate Evensong? Evensong offers us the opportunity to gather and spend time in prayer while listening and participating in music that is especially selected to bring us into deeper understanding of the mysteries of our faith.

What should I expect at Evensong? Hymns, readings, Anglican chant, and anthems sung by the choir.

Why does the choir sing so much at Evensong? In Choral Evensong, the choir sings on behalf of the congregation. The settings of the Canticles of Mary (*Magnificat*) and Simeon (*Nunc dimittis*) have, by tradition, been sung by the choir alone. The Suffrages (prayers) and the Responses between the Officiant and congregation are also sung on behalf of the people. This allows the congregation time to meditate and enter into deeper prayer through word and music.

What does the congregation do at Evensong? The congregation joins in the singing of hymns, the Apostle's Creed, and other prayers. Additionally, the people are invited to join in silent meditation as the choir sings the various prayers, psalms, and canticles.

What is a canticle? A canticle (from the Latin *canticulum*, a diminutive of *canticum*, meaning "song") is a hymn (strictly excluding the Psalms) taken from the Bible.

Why do the prayers sound old-fashioned? Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our ancestors more than four hundred years ago. Archbishop Thomas Cranmer's English translations of the ancient Latin and Sarum rites for the Daily Office were first published in 1549. Along with the King James Bible and the works of Shakespeare, Cranmer's texts could be said to form part of the DNA of the English language. It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

All stand for

The Procession

The Officiant reads

The Opening Sentences

The LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. -*Habakkuk 2:20*

LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honor dwelleth. -*Psalm 26:8*

Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense; and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. -*Psalm 141:2*

O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. -*Psalm 96:9*

All kneel as the Officiant says

A General Confession

Dearly beloved brethren, the Scripture moveth us, in sundry places, to acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness; and that we should not dissemble nor cloak them before the face of Almighty God our heavenly Father; but confess them with a humble, lowly, penitent, and obedient heart; to the end that we may obtain forgiveness of the same, by his infinite goodness and mercy. And although we ought, at all times, humbly to acknowledge our sins before God; yet ought we chiefly so to do, when we assemble and meet together to render thanks for the great benefits that we have received at his hands, to set forth his most worthy praise, to hear his most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Wherefore I pray and beseech you, as many as are here present, to accompany me with a pure heart, and humble voice, unto the throne of the heavenly grace, saying:

All say together

Almighty and most merciful Father; **We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; And we have done those things which we ought not to have done; And there is no health in us. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable offenders. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent; According to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake; That we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, To the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.**

The officiant says

The Declaration of Absolution

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desireth not the death of a sinner, but rather that he may turn from his wickedness and live, hath given power, and commandment, to his Ministers, to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the Absolution and Remission of their sins. He pardoneth and absolveth all those who truly repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel.

Wherefore let us beseech him to grant us true repentance, and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do at this present; and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy; so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

All stand as the Choir sings

The Preces and Responses

setting: Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

Officiant O Lord, open thou our lips.
Choir **And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.**
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

Officiant Praise ye the Lord.
Choir **The Lord's Name be praised.**

Candles are lit as all sing

The Phos Hilaron 29 "O Trinity of blessed light"

Bromley

All sit while the Choir sings

Psalm 114 *In Exitu Israel*

Anglican chant by Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

When Israel came out of Egypt, *
and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,
Judah was his sanctuary, *
and Israel his dominion.
The sea saw that, and fled; *
Jordan was driven back.
The mountains skipped like rams, *
and the little hills like young sheep.
What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? *
and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?
Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams? *
and ye little hills, like young sheep?
Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord: *
at the presence of the God of Jacob;
Who turned the hard rock into a standing water,*
and the flint-stone into a springing well.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson

1 Kings 8:22-30

Lector A lesson from the First Book of Kings.

Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. He said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, the covenant that you kept for your servant, my father David, as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant, my father David, that which you promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant, my father David.

But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! Regard your servant's prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, 'My name shall be there,' that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive."

Lector Here endeth the lesson.

All stand as the Choir sings

The Magnificat

setting: Herbert Brewer (1865–1928) in D

My soul doth magnify the Lord, *
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.
For he hath regarded *
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth *
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me, *
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him *
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm; *
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat, *
and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, *
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever. -Luke 1:46-55

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

All sit for

The Second Lesson

John 8:42-59

Lector A lesson from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God, and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you cannot accept my word. You are from your father the devil, and you choose to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe me. Which of you convicts me of sin? If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me? Whoever is from God hears the words of God. The reason you do not hear them is that you are not from God."

The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge. Very truly, I tell you, whoever keeps my word will never see death." The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon. Abraham died, and so did the prophets, yet you say, 'Whoever keeps my word will never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? The prophets also died. Who do you claim to be?" Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, he of whom you say, 'He is our God,' though you do not know him. But I know him; if I would say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know him, and I keep his word. Your ancestor Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad." Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am." So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

Lector Here endeth the lesson.

All stand for

The Nunc Dimittis

setting: Herbert Brewer (1865–1928) in D

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, *
according to thy word;
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, *
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, *
and to be the glory of thy people Israel. *-Luke 2:29-32*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

All sing in unison

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, **the Father almighty,**
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

All kneel as the Choir sings

The Preces and Responses

setting: Richard Ayleward (1626–1669)

Officiant The Lord be with you.
Choir **And with thy spirit.**
Officiant Let us pray.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
In earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES

Officiant O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
Choir **And grant us thy salvation.**
Officiant O Lord, save the State.
Choir **And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.**
Officiant Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
Choir **And make thy chosen people joyful.**
Officiant O Lord, save thy people.
Choir **And bless thine inheritance.**
Officiant Give peace in our time, O Lord.
Choir **Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.**
Officiant O God, make clean our hearts within us.
Choir **And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.**

The Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, who art the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Collect for Peace

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that both our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

The Collect for Mission

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. **Amen.**

All sit for

The Anthem after the Third Collect

setting: Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Jesu, the very thought of Thee
With sweetness fills my breast;
But sweeter far Thy face to see,
And in Thy presence rest.

Words: Latin, 12th c., trans. Edward Caswall (1814–1878)

All kneel as the Officiant says

A Prayer for The President of the United States and all in Civil Authority.

Almighty God, whose kingdom is everlasting and power infinite; have mercy upon this whole land; and so rule the hearts of thy servants, Joe, Andy, and all others in authority, that they, knowing whose ministers they are, may above all things seek thy honor and glory; and that we and all the People, duly considering whose authority they bear, may faithfully and obediently honor them, according to thy blessed Word and ordinance; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Clergy and People

Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace; and, that they may truly please thee, pour upon them the continual dew of thy blessing. Grant this, O Lord, for the honor of our Advocate and Mediator, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A Prayer for all Conditions of Men

O God, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, we humbly beseech thee for all sorts and conditions of men; that thou wouldest be pleased to make thy ways known unto them, thy saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for thy holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by thy good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to thy fatherly goodness all those who are any ways afflicted, or distressed, in mind, body, or estate, especially those for whom our prayers are desired; that it may please thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. **Amen.**

All say together

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, **Father of all mercies, we, thine unworthy servants, do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness and loving-kindness to us, and to all men; We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy**

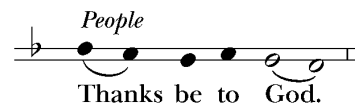
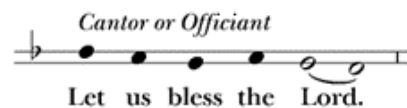
mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful: and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to thy service, and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. *Amen.*

The Officiant says

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

The Concluding Versicle and Response



The Officiant says

The Grace

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** - *II Corinthians 13:14*

All stand to sing

The Closing Hymn 541 “Come, labor on”

Ora Labora
descant: Paul Halley (b. 1952)

The Retiring Procession

All remain standing as the choir and clergy depart.

Those who wish may sit for the remainder of the organ voluntary.

A freewill offering benefitting the music ministry of the parish may be left in the basket at the entrance to the nave.



Scan to give online

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Audra Rankin
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Sheryl Stone
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UPCOMING SERVICES AND CONCERTS

Please join us again for the next service of Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 1, the Feast of St. Francis (observed), sung by the Choristers and Parish Choir. The pre-service concert features Cincinnati-based tenor, Andrew Miller, in a recital of art song accompanied by pianist Matthew Vanover, Executive Director of the Louisville Youth Orchestra.

JOIN A CHOIR

Do you love to sing? Consider joining one of our four choirs. Rehearsals begin this coming Wednesday, September 6. Visit stfrancisinthefields.org/worship/#music to learn more about our various ensembles. Children and youth in kindergarten through high school should register online, and singers over 18 should schedule a vocal interview with Dr. Kirk Rich, Director of Music: kirkr@sfitf.org.

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Term Ending 2025

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ST. FRANCIS
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EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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